Price retention mechanism for fertilizers

2154. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Wili the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are in the process of dismantling the price retention mechanism for fertilizers;

(b) whether 20-30 per cent of the indigenous industry would be forced to closedown as the price would be unviable if Government carry out this policy; and

(c) if so, what is Government's thinking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Government is in the process of formulating a new pricing policy for urea units keeping in view the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission. Impact of the pricing policy on the domestic fertilizer industry as well as on the Government's subsidy expenditure will be kept in view, before the new policy is finalised. The proposed new policy will aim at bringing transparency and uniformity in disbursement of subsidy payments to urea manufacturers and will also induce them to take cost reduction measures on their own and be competitive.

Distributors of fertilizers

† 2155. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria for appointment of distributors of fertilizers in the country;

(b) the number of distributors of fertilizers in the country;

(c) whether reservation policy is applicable in the appointment of distributors of fertilizers; and

(d) if so, the total number of fertilizers distributors in Bihar stating

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† Orginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the number of Schedule Castes, Adivasis and most backward classes out of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The appointment of distributors/dealers of fertilizers is done by the individual fertilizer manufacturing/trading company keeping in view, *inter alia,* their commercial and marketing needs in different States. Various fertilizers companies have been adopting their own criteria for appointment of distributors. However, the license for distributorship is given by the respective State Governments.

(b) There are nearly 31,898 distributors/dealers of fertilizers of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in the country. The two Multi-State Cooperative Societies namely IFFCO and KRIBHCO do not appoint distributors for sales of fertilizers but sell fertilizers only through State cooperative channels/institutional agencies. However, for private sector, Government do not maintain their data in respect of distributorship.

(c) The Government had issued instruction in Septemeber 78 only to PSUs to reserve 25% of appointment of dealers for fertilizers for Scheduled Castes (SCs)/Scheduled Tribes (STs).

(d) There are about 2,870 fertilizers distributors/dealers of PSUs in Bihar including 176 dealers belonging to SCs, Adivasis and most backward classes.

Use of dirty dozen toxic Chemicals

2156. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 120 countries have agreed to outlaw or minimize the use of the 'dirty dozen' toxic chemicals blamed for causing fatal diseases and birth defects among humans and animals;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government;

(c) whether Government have taken any action in the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?